

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
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SUBJ: EUROPEAN TRADE UNION INSTITUTE LAUNCHED

REF: (A) BRUSSELS 7332, PARA 8 (B) BRUSSELS 3068
(C) BRUSSELS 2615, PARA 6

1. THE EUROPEAN TRADE UNION INSTITUTE, A BRUSSELS-BASED
LABOR RESEARCH AND EDUCATION CENTER, WAS CEREMONIALLY
LAUNCHED JUNE 7 BY HEINZ OSKAR VETTER, PRESIDENT OF THE
EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (ETUC), AND HENK
VREDELING, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE COMMISSION OF THE
EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES. AT A MEETING IN THE EC COMMISSION
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HEADQUARTERS, THE TWO SIGNED AN AGREEMENT UNDER WHICH THE
COMMISSION WILL FOR SIX YEARS MAKE A SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBU-
TION TO THE ETUC-MANAGED INSTITUTE (THIS YEAR'S CONTRIBU-
TION: 500,000 UNITS OF ACCOUNT, OR THE EQUIVALENT OF
\$615,000).

2. ON JANUARY 21, 1974, WHEN THE ETUC WAS LESS THAN A

YEAR OLD, THE EC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS SET A GOAL OF "INCREASED INVOLVEMENT OF MANAGEMENT AND LABOR IN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DECISIONS OF THE COMMUNITY," AND SPECIFICALLY AGREED THAT THE COMMUNITY WOULD "HELP TRADE UNION ORGANIZATIONS TAKING PART IN COMMUNITY WORK TO ESTABLISH TRAINING AND INFORMATION SERVICES FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS AND TO SET UP A EUROPEAN TRADE UNION INSTITUTE." INVOLVED WITH OTHER PRIORITIES, INCLUDING ORGANIZING AND REORGANIZING ITS OWN SECRETARIAT, THE ETUC TOOK A LONG TIME TO DEVELOP PLANS FOR THE INSTITUTE, AND THEN GETTING THE COMMUNITY TO APPROVE THEM TOOK MORE THAN TWO YEARS.

3. AS DESCRIBED BY A COMMISSION PRESS RELEASE, THE PURPOSE OF THE INSTITUTE IS TO PROMOTE INFORMATION, EDUCATION, AND TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR WORKERS AND THEIR ORGANIZATIONS, "CONTRIBUTING THEREBY TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF A EUROPEAN CONSCIOUSNESS AND TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF LIVING AND WORKING CONDITIONS IN THE COMMUNITY." ANOTHER PURPOSE, LISTED AS THE INSTITUTE'S HIGHEST PRIORITY IN ITS CONSTITUTION, IS TO UNDERTAKE RESEARCH ON SUBJECTS "OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO WORKERS AND THEIR UNIONS." ACCORDING TO AN ETUC SECRETARIAT SOURCE, THE RESEARCH AREA REMAINS TO BE DEFINED, BUT THE "MAIN EMPHASIS WILL BE ECONOMIC."

4. THE ETUC AND THE INSTITUTE ARE LEGALLY DISTINCT, BUT IN REALITY CLOSELY INTERTWINED. THE MEMBERS OF THE ETUC
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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND OF THE INSTITUTE'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS ARE EXACTLY THE SAME PEOPLE. HOWEVER, THE INSTITUTE'S FULL-TIME STAFF IS SET UP PARALLEL TO THE ETUC SECRETARIAT, AND NOT UNDER IT. THE INSTITUTE DIRECTOR, GUNTER KOPKE, WHO JOINS THE STAFF JULY 1, REPORTS TO A MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MADE UP OF THE ETUC PRESIDENT, GENERAL SECRETARY, AND SEVEN VICE PRESIDENTS.

5. UNDER ETUC PROJECTIONS, THE INSTITUTE'S ANNUAL BUDGET WILL EVENTUALLY REACH AROUND \$1.1 MILLION, WITH 55 PERCENT OF IT CONTRIBUTED BY THE EC COMMISSION. THE REMAINING 45 PERCENT IS EXPECTED TO COME FROM VARIOUS SOURCES-- ETUC AFFILIATES, THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE, THE EUROPEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION (EFTA), AND PERHAPS EVEN SOME NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS.

6. EMPLOYERS GROUPS, MEANWHILE, HAVE ASKED FOR SIMILAR HELP FROM THE EC. THE EC EMPLOYERS LIAISON COMMITTEE (WHICH REPRESENTS INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL, BANKING, AND OTHER COMMUNITY-WIDE EMPLOYER ORGANIZATIONS) RECENTLY ASKED THE EC COUNCIL FOR THE "MEANS NECESSARY...TO MATCH THE CREATION OF A EUROPEAN TRADE UNION INSTITUTE." THE

COUNCIL'S INFORMAL RESPONSE WAS POSITIVE, ALTHOUGH IT MADE NO COMMITMENT AS TO AMOUNT, ACCORDING TO AN EMPLOYER SOURCE.

7. E ASSISTANCE TO NON-GOVERNMENTAL GROUPS IS NOTHING NEW. FOR EXAMPLE, THE COMMISSION PAYS FOR INTERPRETERS AT THE FIVE ETUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD IN BRUSSELS EACH YEAR. ACCORDING TO A COMMISSION SOURCE, THE TOTAL COST OF INTERPRETATION INTO SIX LANGUAGES COMES TO ABOUT \$10,000 FOR EACH TWO-DAY MEETING. HINTON

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